(Saharasa): Sir, I would like to raise a matter pertaining to the Doordarshan relay centre located in my Parliamentary constituency of Saharsa. The transmission capacity of this relay centre is so low that the reception of programmes is not clear even in Saharasa city. I had raised this matter in this august House, earlier also, but it was of little avail. My constituency comprises of two Districts viz. Saharasa and Sapaul. If tha people of Saharasa itself do not receive these programmes, clearly, one can imagine the level of transmission in the other district. This is one of the major reasons for the backwardness of the region and there is a lot of resentment in the people as they are not able to view Doordarshan programmes.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to set up a high power transmitter at the Doordarshan relay centre in my constituency, Saharasa and also set up a low power transmitter in the newly set up district of Sapaul, to enable the people of both these districts to clearly view the programmes and thus benefit from it. Such a step would not only raise the educational standard of the people of my constituency, but also enable viewers in the neighbouring country of Nepal to watch the programmes properly. No further delay should be made in this regard.

(vii) Need to increase frequency of Calicut – Sharjah flights

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, it is a specification that Indian Airlines have operated a new flights from Calicut airport to Sharjah with A-320 Airbus aircrafts. Now this flight is operating only three days in a week. It is reliably learnt that there is heavy booking for months in advance on this route. There is mounting public demand to operate flights from Calicut to Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Abu Dhabi (UAE), Muscat (Oman), Doha (Qatar) besides increasing frequency of the present operation of Calicut–Sharjah flights. I would, therefore, request the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry to direct the Indian Airlines to increase and make Calicut–Sharjah daily flight and to introduce new flights form Calicut airport to Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Jeddah, Doha, etc.

(viii) Need to allot LSHS fuel to Karnataka Electricity Board for Augmenting electricity production through diesel generation sets

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Karnataka Electricity Board has taken up a project to set up six diesel generator sets at Yalahanka near Bangalore. Each set will have a capacity producing electricity to the extent of 21.32 MW. The diesel generator sets are very essential for the power–starved Bangalore city which has many large–sized public sector undertakings in the service of the nation

The first unit, i.e., one diesel generator set is under installation and is due for commissioning by the end of March, 1992. But the unit will run only on LSHS fuel which has to be allotted by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through Indian Oil Corporation. In spu of repeated requests from the State Government, the allotment of LSHS fuel has not yet been done by the Ministry. As the first unit is due for commissioning during this month, it is utmost urgent that LSHS fuel is allotted immediately. This will go a long way in helping a number of large and medium industries, particularly public sector undertakings, which are facing power–cuts due to shortage of power supply by Karnataka Electricity Board and will ultimately help increase the industrial production of the country.